Evelina London

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

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3 August, 2023

The Chairman
The Committee of Subspeciality Boards of the Hong Kong College of Paediatricians
Hong Kong

Dear Sir,

Re: Paediatric Cardiology Training Programme

Many thanks for sending me a copy of the training programme for Paediatric Cardiology in Hong Kong.

For background information, Paediatric Cardiology has been recognised as a separate specialty since the early 1990s. Prior to that it was a part of British Cardiac Society adult cardiology programme. After considerable amount of work with the Royal College of Physicians and the British Paediatric Association (which later became Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health), the specialty was recognised by the Colleges and then the government. I played a considerable part in the early years in this work. After that a training programme was developed, which underwent several refinement changes and so now consists of subspecialty training programme also. The recognition of paediatric cardiology as a mono-specialty has resulted in improvements in all aspects of care for such complex needs of patients with congenital heart defects and has also led to focus our attention on Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD), which is intimately linked to Paediatric Cardiology. As a past-President of both British Congenital Cardiac Association (BCCA) and the Association for European Paediatric & Congenital Cardiology (AEPC), I played a significant role in the curriculums for paediatric cardiology both in UK and Europe.

I have spent some time reading the document you sent me and have noted the considerable amount of time and effort spent by the convenors and members of the Paediatric Cardiology Subspecialty Group in developing the programme. Such a development helps to focus the attention of the Colleges and the Governments on the provision of appropriate services for patients (children and adults) with congenital heart disease. Furthermore, it answers many of

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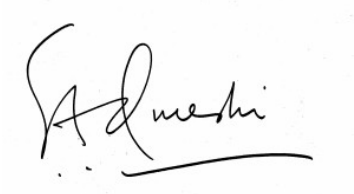
the questions for the young trainees, who are looking towards developing their careers and making important career choices.

It was pleasing to note the attempts to cover the training programme curriculum in a comprehensive manner. The programme allows entry after 3 years of basic training in general paediatrics, which is followed by 3 years of subspecialty training. I was pleased to note that the trainees would be allowed to train for 24 months in a paediatric cardiology centre (local and/or overseas) and 12 months (or less) in training networking units. The trainees are also encouraged to obtain at least 6 months training in an overseas centre. The curriculum contains details of knowledge, skills, and attitudes requirements throughout their training in all aspects of our specialty. The curriculum covers all aspects of care from the fetus to adult, including subspecialty imaging and cardiac catheterisation procedures, as well as requirements for subspecialty training. The requirements for practical procedures for each of subspecialty area is important also and I feel that the numbers given are reasonable and acceptable.

I am pleased to offer my personal strong support for this venture, as everyone will benefit from the clear guidelines for training. Since the recognition of Paediatric Cardiology as a mono-specialty in the UK, and since the development of an appropriate curriculum for different areas of sub-specialisation, the specialty has progressed rapidly.

I will be pleased to answer any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sir Shakeel A Qureshi, FRCP
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